

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 156054
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 156054

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1 AND 2

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS

REFS: (A) STATE 155008; (B) TEL AVIV 7676;
(C) JERUSALEM 1665; (D) JERUSALEM 1666

1. WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF
TEL AVIV 7676 TO URQUHART AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. YOU
SHOULD INFORM HIM THAT NEWSOM'S PHONE CALL TO DINITZ AND
AMBASSADOR LEWIS' DEMARCHE TO WEIZMAN CONVEYED USG'S
STRONG CONCERN THAT ISRAEL EMPLOY ALL LEVERAGE AVAILABLE
TO MODERATE BEHAVIOR OF CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. YOU SHOULD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 156054

PASS ON WEIZMAN'S ASSURANCES THAT HADDAD WOULD ACT TO
CONTROL MILITIAS. WE REALIZE THAT, AS REFLECTED IN
MILITIAMEN'S POUNDING OF HADDAD'S TABLE--JERUSALEM 1666--
HE MAY NOT BE IN DOMINANT POSITION. BASIC FACT, HOWEVER,
IS THAT ISRAELIS ARE IN POSITION TO INFLUENCE NOT JUST
HADDAD BUT MILITIA ELEMENTS IN GENERAL, SINCE ALL AGREE
THAT MILITIA DEPEND ON ISRAELIS FOR SUPPLIES.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONVEY TO URQUHART OUR BELIEF THAT MOST EFFECTIVE WAY FOR UNIFIL TO GAIN FULL CHRISTIAN MILITIA CONFIDENCE (AND INCIDENTALLY THAT OF GOI) IS TO

EFFECT WITHDRAWAL OF ANY NEW PALESTINIAN INFILTRATORS. YOU SHOULD ASK IF UNNY CAN CONFIRM REPORT (TEL AVIV 7676) OF EXPULSION OF SOME 30 WELL-ARMED NEWLY-ARRIVED FATAH. IF REPORT CAN BE CONFIRMED, AND PUBLICIZED, THIS MIGHT SERVE TO ALLAY CHRISTIAN (AND ISRAELI) SUSPICIONS THAT UNIFIL IS TREATING PLO WITH KID GLOVES.

3. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO PASS ON OUR VERSION OF ENCOURAGING REPORTS OF UNIFIL/CHRISTIAN COOPERATION RECOUNTED IN JERUSALEM 1665. YOU SHOULD ASK IF UN NEW YORK HAS RECEIVED ANY UPDATES CONFIRMING THIS HOPEFUL TREND.

4. SUGGEST YOU ALSO NOTE WITH URQUHART THAT IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES BOTH WALDHEIM AND HE TOOK THE POSITION THAT UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON AUTHORIZED ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA OF UNIFIL OPERATIONS, THEY DID NOT BELONG THERE; AND THAT IN THAT CONNECTION THE ARRANGEMENTS THE UN HAD WORKED OUT WITH THE PLO IN THE AREA WERE "AD HOC" AND "INTERIM". AT THAT TIME MAYNES REMARKED THAT BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 156054

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WERE NO LONGER INTERIM AND URGED THAT UN CONTINUE TO PRESS PLO TO CONTINUE TO THIN OUT UNITS IN SOUTH. URQUHART SAID UN WOULD BE DOING THIS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES OF THIS TASK AND GREAT SKILL UN HAS SHOWN IN CARRYING IT OUT, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO SEE UN PRESSING IN THIS REGARD.

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